

# Gunmen storm Ekiti



• Adesanya on his hospital bed yesterday

- PDP chairman's police escort killed
- Governorship aspirants escape death
- Fayose accused of sponsoring attack

**A** MOBILE policeman was killed in Ekiti State yesterday and his colleague shot as a seven-man gang unleashed another orgy of violence on the state.

The deceased was attached to the state Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chairman, Mr. Ropo Adesanya. His shot colleague was the escort of a member of the House of Representatives, Mr. Olufemi Adeyemi.

Adesanya, Adeyemi and two governorship aspirants, Prof Adesegun Ojo of PDP and Chief Dapo Alibalo of the Action Congress (AC), reportedly escaped death during the separate attacks in three towns in the state.

The state Administrator, Brigadier-General Adetunji Olurin (rtd) and the Director of the State Security Service (SSS) in the state, Mr Joseph Gabadi visited Adesanya at the Government House Clinic where he is receiving treatment for head injuries.

Olurin expressed concern over the latest wave of attacks in the state which is under

From Odunayo Ogunmola, Ado-Ekiti

emergency rule.

Informed sources told *The Nation* in Ado-Ekiti yesterday that the assailants had earlier snatched a black Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) belonging to a contractor and trailed another PDP governorship aspirant, Mr Segun Oni to After 7 and Fabian hotels on Secretariat and New Ilawe roads, respectively, before moving to De-Link Hotel on Iworoko Road where they attacked Adesanya and Adeyemi.

Adeyemi who represents Ekiti Central I Federal Constituency in the lower chamber of the National Assembly, told newsmen that the impeached Governor Ayo Fayose and his loyalists were the brains behind the attack. He said the attack might have been informed by the loss of the group's candidate, Chief Bosun Osaloni lost in the House of Representative run-off election on Friday. Adeyemi won the run-off election.

The lawmaker also alleged that Fayose

Continued on page 6

**PDP senatorial primaries**

## Nnamani, Omisore get tickets

- Igbiniedion opts for Senate
- Aspirant arrested in Delta • Page



# Gunmen storm Ekiti

Continued from page 1

secretly visited the state and was sighted by some people on Friday. He said the former governor used to contact his political associates on phone and appealed to President Olusegun Obasanjo to urgently set a machinery in motion to arrest Fayose because "he is now a security risk".

"Last week and up till yesterday, Fayose was seen in Ado-Ekiti and if something should happen to me, Fayose should be held responsible because he kept phoning his agents and it was there they hatched the plot to eliminate me and the earlier something is done the better for us," Adeyemi said.

Narrating his own ordeal, Adesanya alleged that a meeting was held about two weeks ago at another hotel in Ado-Ekiti where he, Adeyemi and the Deputy Chief Whip of the Senate, Senator Clement Awoyelu were marked for elimination.

Adesanya revealed that the assassins asked of Adeyemi's whereabouts immediately on their arrival and did not immediately know that he was the party chair in the state. He said the moment they knew his status, they descended on him and smashed his head with a bottle leaving him in a pool of his own blood.

## reat to life

selves at the back of my house with intention to do mischief, but they were chased away."

The frontline politician who said he did not rule out the possibility of political motivations in these attempts, "with the prevailing political violence in Nigeria," called on the police to investigate the matter so as to bring the perpetrators to book.

## Delta crisis

election.

It further advised the government to show enough seriousness towards the anti-graft programmes by prosecuting high profile violators of the anti-corruption rules and regulations.

The government is advised to set up regional branches of the anti-corruption commissioners and a new anti-corruption Ombudsman, supported by passage of the freedom of Information Act. The commission requested that the 2005 NEITI audit of oil revenues should be published to ensure that oil companies in NEITI are fulfilling their obligations while remaining oil companies that have not signed unto NEITI we requested to do so.

Alibaloye while narrating his own ordeal in Ire-Ekiti in Oye Local Government Area said he was resting in his home after returning from a campaign tour of Ikole Local Government when he heard shouts of the hoodlums asking about his whereabouts downstairs.

He said they forcefully gained entry into his house, beat up two of his aides and his son, forced the door to his bedroom "open and picked his campaign handbills. While doing this he said they were shouting "this is the man we have been told to kill".

The veteran politician said he held the gun of one of the assassins who had earlier searched the house to ascertain whether he had any firearms at home. His action, he said, infuriated one of them who smashed his forehead with the butt of a gun.

The governorship aspirant claimed that N140,000, mobile phones and wrist watches were taken away by the hoodlums who might have sold a dummy by taking away the valuables to conceal their evil intention.

Alibaloye said the assailants came in a black jeep and were seven in number. He showed reporters some bullets that were fired and the blood of one of the occupants of the house that was spilled during the attack while two cartridges were emptied by the attackers.

He revealed that the Divisional Police officer (DPO) from Oye-Ekiti and SSS operatives had come to his residence for an on-the-spot assessment.

In nearby Itapa-Ekiti in the same local government area, Ojo explained that one of his private security guards was shot while the assailants arrived in a black jeep and were seven in number.

Ojo, an American-based professor was attacked in the same house on November 16 during which he received a big gash on the head.

Four persons on the campaign team of the Chairman of the National Universities Commission (NUC), Mrs Abiola Ayimonche were also kidnapped by the gang on their way from Ire to Itapa. They had double-crossed the Isuzu bus in which the quartet were travelling and dumped them inside the booth of the jeep.

One of the four kidnapped persons told newsmen at Ojo's residence that two of the assassins were shot on the arm and shoulder by the traditional guards in Itapa. He said he overheard the assassins when they said this in their discussion in Ekiti dialect.

Contacted on phone, Koyi said she was in Abuja as at press time and had been briefed on the latest wave of attacks and would receive full briefing on her return to Ekiti.